

GLOSSARY

Backwater	The resulting high water surface in a given stream due to a downstream restriction or high stages in an intersecting stream.
Channel	A natural or artificial watercourse with definite bed and banks to confine and conduct continuously or periodically flowing water.
Cubic Feet Per Second	Rate of fluid flow at which one cubic foot of fluid passes a measuring point in one second (cfs).
Discharge	The rate of flow or volume per unit of time. In this report discharge is expressed in cubic feet per second (cfs).
Flood	An overflow of water onto lands not normally covered by water. The inundation is temporary and the land is adjacent to and inundated by overflow from a river, stream, ocean, lake or other body of standing water.
Flood Frequency	An expression of how often a flood event of a given magnitude will, on the average, be equaled or exceeded. The word "frequency" often is omitted in discussing a flood event for the purpose of abbreviation. Examples: 10-year flood or 10-year frequency flood - the flood which can be expected to be equaled or exceeded on an average of once in 10 years; and which would have a 10 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. 50-year flood -two percent chance....in any given year. 100-year flood - ...one percent chance....in any given year. 500-year flood - ...two-tenths percent chance....in any given year.
Flood Peak or Peak Discharge	The highest stage or discharge attained during a flood.
Flood Plain Encroachment	Placement of fill or structures in the flood plain which may impede flood flow and cause backwater.
Flood Plain, Flood Prone Area or Flood Hazard Area	Land adjoining a stream (or other body of water) which has been or may be covered by water.

GLOSSARY (Cont.)

Flood Proofing	A combination of structural provisions, changes or adjustments to properties and structures subject to flooding for the reduction or elimination of flood damages to properties, water and sanitary facilities, structures, and contents of buildings in a flood hazard area.
Flood Routing	Computation of the changes in the rise and fall in streamflow as a flood moves downstream. The results provide hydrographs of discharge versus time at given points on the stream.
Flood Stage	The stage or elevation of which overflow of the natural banks of a stream or body of water begins in the reach or area.
Floodway	The channel of a stream and those portions of the flood plains adjoining the channel which are reasonably required to efficiently carry and discharge a 100-year flood flow.
Floodway Fringe	That part of the flood hazard area lying outside the floodway.
Frequency-Discharge Relationship	The relationship between the rate of flow at a specified location and the percent chance of occurrence of the flood causing it.
Headwater	1. The water immediately upstream from a structure such as a bridge, culvert or dam. 2. Water upstream of a reference point on a stream. 3. The source of a stream.
Hydraulics	The science of the laws governing the motion of liquids and their practical applications. Pertains to water flowing in channels and floodways.
Hydrograph	A plotted curve showing the rise and fall of flood discharge with respect to time at a specific point on a stream.
Hydrology	The science that deals with the occurrence and behavior of water in the atmosphere, on the ground, and underground. Rainfall intensities, land cover condition and runoff potentials are among the items considered in this science.
Natural Storage Area	In this report, refers to depressional areas, marshes, lakes and swamps that temporarily store a portion of the surface runoff.

GLOSSARY (Cont.)

Reach Length	The length of stream channel selected for use in hydraulic or other computations.
Runoff	In this report, refers to the portion of precipitation (including snowmelt) that flows across the land surface and contributes to stream or flood flow.
Soil Association	A landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and it is named for the major soils. The soils in one association may occur in another, but in a different pattern.
Stage-Discharge Curve	A plotted curve showing elevations resulting from a range of discharges at a point on a stream.
Stage-Storage Curve	A plotted curve showing the accumulated storage available for floodwater upstream from a point on a stream versus the stage at that point.
Structural Improvements	In the context of flood control, the engineering construction for purposes of water regulation, control, storage or conveyance.
Tailwater	In hydraulics, water in a channel or pool immediately downstream from a structure such as a bridge, culvert or dam.
Valley Cross Section	The relationship of the elevation of the ground to the horizontal distance across a valley perpendicular to the direction of flow.
Watershed	A drainage basin or area which collects runoff and transmits runoff to the outlet of the basin.
Watershed Boundary or Drainage Boundary	The divide separating one drainage basin from another.
Watershed Model	As used here the mathematical representation of a drainage basin within which flood flows are computed. Represents the flow process over time using time steps. Used for predictions.
Water Surface Profile	The relationship of water surface elevation to stream channel elevation at points along a stream, generally drawn to show the water surface elevation for the peak of a specific flood, but may be prepared for conditions at any given time.